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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: ARA GUIDANCES/BRIEFING OF APRIL 7, 1983

1. PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCES FOR NOON BRIEFING:

-- EL SALVADOR: PENDING CONGRESSIONAL AID REQUEST --

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING A DELAY OF HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF ITS REPROGRAMMING REQUEST UNTIL ENOUGH FAVORABLE VOTES CAN BE FOUND?

A: NO ONE IS REQUESTING A DELAY. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS OVER THE PAST WEEKS, AND WILL CONTINUE DOING SO UNTIL THE PROCESS IS COMPLETE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CONDITIONS CHAIRMAN LONG HAS SAID HE WANTS IMPOSED ON ANY AID APPROVAL, PARTICULARLY THE SUGGESTION THAT A HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATOR BE APPOINTED TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF AN ELECTION AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN EL SALVADOR?

A: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED RESPONSES FROM OTHER CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND THESE ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. CERTAINLY ANY SUGGESTIONS MADE BY

CHAIRMAN LONG AND HIS COMMITTEE WILL BE CONSIDERED AS WELL, BUT WE CAN'T RESPOND FORMALLY UNTIL THE COMMITTEE COMPLETES ITS DELIBERATIONS.

Q: THE ADMINISTRATION'S INITIAL REQUEST WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF SOME URGENCY. DOES THAT CRISIS SITUATION NO

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LONGER EXIST? WASN'T THERE A 15-DAY NOTIFICATION RULE, AFTER WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION COULD PUT THE MONEY INTO USE?

A: NEITHER THE IMPORTANCE NOR THE TIMELINESS OF THE REQUESTED FUNDS HAS CHANGED. IN THIS CASE, AS WE'VE SAID BEFORE, WE ACCEDED TO THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE TO DELAY OBLIGATION OF FUNDS UNTIL THE SUBCOMMITTEE COULD MEET AFTER THE EASTER RECESS.

-- EL SALVADOR/NICARAGUA: GUERRILLA KILLED --

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON OR CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS FROM MANAGUA THAT SALVADORAN GUERRILLA LEADER NELIDA ANAYA MONTES, KNOWN AS COMMANDANTE ANA MARIA, WAS ASSASSINATED IN HER HOME IN MANAGUA?

A: WE'VE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON IT FOR YOU.

Q: IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE SUGGESTION IS ABSURD. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEPLORED TERRORIST ACTS WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THEY OCCUR.

--NICARAGUA: STATE CONCERNED ABOUT "COVERT" ACTIVITIES--

Q: TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES (LGELB) HAS A FRONT PAGE STORY INDICATING THAT HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS APPARENTLY HAVE "MISGIVINGS" ABOUT THE CURRENT COVERT SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-SANDINISTA "CONTRAS". COULD YOU CONFIRM THESE MISGIVINGS OR COMMENT ON THE STORY ITSELF?

A: AS WE HAVE STATED MANY TIMES SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE VIOLATING THE LAW.

IF ASKED ONLY:

Q: THE STORY APPEARS TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT SUCH A POLICY IS IN PLACE. IS THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE MOUNTING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT?

A: WE'VE STATED BEFORE THAT WE BELIEVE CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT SUCH ISSUES ARE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSED WITHIN THE SELECT COMMITTEES FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY THE CONGRESS ITSELF.

Q: WILL THE DEPARTMENT BE TESTIFYING BEFORE ANY SELECT COMMITTEES ON THIS ISSUE?

A: IF WE ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE A POLICY CONTEXT FOR ANY COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS WE OF COURSE WILL DO SO, BUT I HAVE NO SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES TO OFFER YOU.

-- MEXICO'S CLAIM TO CHANNEL ISLANDS OFF CALIFORNIA --

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT A RECENTLY REPORTED MEXICAN "DORMANT CLAIM" TO THE EIGHT CHANNEL ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA? IS THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO THIS STORY OR TO SUCH CLAIMS? (EXCELSIOR, MEXICO CITY APRIL 4-5)

A: THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO HAS NEVER CLAIMED ANY OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS SINCE THEY BECAME PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1848. THE UNITED STATES EXERCISES UNDISPUTED

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SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEM. IT IS CLEAR FROM THE HISTORY OF THE 1848 TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO THAT A PURPOSE OF THE TREATY WAS TO TRANSFER TO THE UNITED STATES THE TERRITORY OF UPPER CALIFORNIA, LEAVING LOWER CALIFORNIA (BAJA CALIFORNIA) TO MEXICO. THE CHANNEL ISLANDS FORMED A PART OF THE DISTRICT OF SAN DIEGO WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER CALIFORNIA, AND WERE THUS PART OF THE LANDS TRANSFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THAT TREATY. THE CHANNEL ISLANDS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND OF THE UNITED STATES.

--CENTRAL AMERICA: NYTIMES PRINTS NSPG MEETING DOCUMENT --

Q: THIS MORNING'S NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES THE FULL TEXT OF A PURPORTED APRIL 1982 NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING GROUP SUMMARY PAPER WHICH OUTLINES THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AIMED AT "PREVENTING CUBAN-MODEL STATES". CAN YOU CONFIRM THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENT AND WHETHER OR NOT THE POLICIES OUTLINED ARE STILL IN FORCE? (RBONNER/NYTIMES)

A: WE HAVE NOT COMMENTED IN THE PAST ON PRESS REPORTS OF ALLEGED LEAKED DOCUMENTS, AND WE HAVE NO COMMENT NOW.

Q: IN A MORE GENERAL SENSE, THE "INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES" PORTIONS OF THE ALLEGED DOCUMENT STATES THAT THE U.S. HAS "AN INTEREST IN CREATING AND SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." WOULD THE DEPARTMENT QUARREL WITH THAT STATEMENT? DOESN'T IT ACCURATELY REFLECT CURRENT POLICY FOR THE AREA?

A: THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PUBLICLY STATED THE POLICY FOR CENTRAL AMERICA A NUMBER OF TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY ON MARCH 16 BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS ("STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA") AS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY.

-- AMERICAN WOMEN RELEASED BY CUBA --

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THREE AMERICAN PRISONERS FROM CUBA?

A: THREE AMERICAN WOMEN WERE RELEASED TO AN AIDE OF SENATOR ~~LOWELL WEICKER~~ ON APRIL 6 IN HAVANA. THEY ARE REGLA BLASCO CARMONA, 17; SANDRA LEE MECIER, 27; AND ELISA STEEDLY, 17, ALL OF KEY WEST. THEY RETURNED TO KEY WEST BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT THE DAY OF THEIR RELEASE. SENATOR WEICKER HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE CASES OF THE THREE WOMEN ON A RECENT TRIP TO CUBA. CUBA HAS RELEASED SEVERAL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE PAST AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SPECIFIC CASES BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Q: WHY HAD THEY BEEN ARRESTED?

A: THE WOMEN, ALONG WITH OTHERS, HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ENTRY AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AT ORIENTE, CUBA. ON APRIL 15, 1982 AFTER THE BOAT IN WHICH THEY WERE TRAVELING ENTERED CUBAN WATERS.

2. SUMMARY OF NOON PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 7, 1983 (HUGHES):

BRIEFING FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS AND THE BREAKING OF CULTURAL AND SPORTS AGREEMENTS BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. A FEW ARA TOPICS AROSE NEAR THE END OF THE BRIEFING:

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MYERS OF UPI: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE AID REQUEST IN THE LONG APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE? ANY READOUT FROM

THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN LONG YESTERDAY? SPOKESMAN USED THE FIRST TWO ANSWERS OF THE GUIDANCE. HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE NEED IN EL SALVADOR? SPOKESMAN SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE URGENCY OF THE REQUEST AND THE NEED FOR THE AID HAS CHANGED. HE USED THE THIRD ANSWER OF THE GUIDANCE. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE "URGENT?" SPOKESMAN SAID WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE BEFORE. HE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHEN OR IF THE LONG SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD VOTE. DOES THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THE STATEMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMAN LONG YESTERDAY TO THE SECRETARY TO BE FORMAL PROPOSALS? SPOKESMAN SAID YES, THAT THE CONGRESSMAN OFFERED HIS VIEWS AND THE SECRETARY WILL CONSIDER THEM.

DO SOME OFFICERS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT QUESTION WHETHER THE USG IS COMPLYING WITH THE LAW, AS INDICATED IN THE LESLIE GELB STORY IN THIS MORNING'S NYTIMES? SPOKESMAN USED THE FIRST ANSWER OF THE GUIDANCE. OBERDORFER OF THE WASHINGTON POST NOTED THAT AMB. KIRKPATRICK HAS ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE NO VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW, BUT A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE SAYING THERE ARE GREAT QUESTIONS IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT SUCH VIOLATIONS. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION PLAN TO TAKE ACTION TO CLEAR UP THOSE DOUBTS? SPOKESMAN SAID "TAKING ACTION" INDICATED AN INITIATIVE ON OUR PART, AND HE KNEW OF NONE PLANNED. WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD PROVIDE A POLICY CONTEXT FOR ANY COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS IF ASKED TO DO SO, BUT THE SPOKESMAN HAD NO SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES TO PROVIDE.

LOBE OF INTERPRESS SAID THAT LONG HAD THREE CONDITIONS THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO MEET BEFORE THERE WAS ANY HOPE OF GETTING THE AID REQUEST APPROVED. REACTION? SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAD NONE, THAT THERE ARE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SEVERAL COMMITTEES, WHICH WE ARE CONSIDERING.

ANY COMMENT ON THE NYTIMES STORY THIS MORNING QUOTING FROM AN ALLEGED NSPG DOCUMENT? SPOKESMAN SAID NO, USING THE GUIDANCE AND NOTING THAT WE HAVE NEVER AND WILL NOT NOW COMMENT ON ALLEGED LEAKED DOCUMENTS. HE ALSO USED THE SECOND ANSWER OF THE GUIDANCE.

KINSOLVING OF ACCURACY IN MEDIA ASKED ABOUT CUBAN-AMERICANS WHO GO TO CUBA ON VALID VISAS AND THEN ARE ARRESTED AND HELD BY THE CUBANS. WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THAT? SPOKESMAN SAID WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE BEFORE, AND HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO ADD. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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